

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of storing and organizing articles in appliances defining an interior space having a predetermined height, width, and depth, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a plurality of containers, each of the containers being adapted and constructed to receive articles to be stored in the appliance, each container having a substantially open top and a height such that a plurality of containers can be stacked atop one another within the height of the interior of the appliance, a width such that a plurality of containers can be placed adjacent one another within the width of the interior of the appliance, and a depth such that a plurality of containers can be placed within the interior of the appliance;

placing articles to be stored in the appliance in the containers; and placing the containers adjacent to one another, and stacked atop one another, in the interior of the appliance.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers comprises providing a plurality of containers having a first orientation in which the containers can be stacked atop one another, and a second orientation in which the containers nest into one another.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of placing the containers adjacent to one another, and stacked atop one another, in the interior of the appliance comprises placing the containers in a cooling appliance.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of placing the containers adjacent to one another, and stacked atop one another, in the interior of the appliance comprises placing the containers in a freezer.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of placing the containers adjacent to one another, and stacked atop one another, in the interior of the appliance comprises placing the containers in a chest freezer.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers comprises providing a plurality of containers fabricated from a plastic material.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers comprises providing a plurality of containers fabricated from a thermoplastic material.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers comprises providing a plurality of containers fabricated from polypropylene.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers comprises providing a plurality of containers each having a peripheral flange adapted and constructed to facilitate handling of the container by a user.

5 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of providing a plurality of containers each having a peripheral flange adapted and constructed to facilitate handling of the container by a user comprises providing at least one cutout section in the flange of each container.

10 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the step of providing at least one cutout section in the flange of each container comprises providing a pair of cutout sections in the flange of each container.

12. A storage system for organizing articles in appliances defining an interior space having a predetermined height, width, and depth, the storage system comprising the following:

a plurality of containers, each of the containers being adapted and

constructed to receive articles to be stored in the appliance, each container having a substantially open top and a height such that a plurality of containers can be stacked atop one another within the height of the interior of the appliance, a width such that a plurality of containers can be placed adjacent one another within the width of the interior of the appliance, and a depth such that containers can be placed within the width of the interior of the appliance;

whereby articles to be stored in the appliance can be placed in the containers, and the containers themselves can be placed adjacent to one another, and stacked atop one another, in the interior of the appliance.

13. A storage system according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of containers comprises a plurality of containers having a first orientation in which the containers can be stacked atop one another, and a second orientation in which the containers nest into one another.

14. A storage system according to claim 14, wherein the height, width, and depth of the containers permit placement and stacking of the containers in a freezer.

15. A storage system according to claim 14, wherein the height, width, and depth of the containers permit placement and stacking of the containers in a chest freezer.

16. A storage system according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of containers comprises a plurality of containers fabricated from a thermoplastic material.

17. A storage system according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of containers comprises a plurality of containers fabricated from polypropylene.

18. A storage system according to claim 12, wherein each container is provided with a peripheral flange adapted and constructed to facilitate handling of the container by a user.

19. A storage system according to claim 18, wherein each container is provided with at least one cutout section in the flange.

20. A storage system according to claim 19, wherein a pair of cutout sections is provided in the flange of each container.

cutout sections